The War Call of the Church

Bulletin No. 1

THE WAR COMMISSION OF THE
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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14 Wall Street
New York

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The War Call of the Church

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OUR boys and men have left our homes and Churches. From the cantonments and camps in this country they are crossing the ocean to France. They are soldiers and sailors; they are, however, still boys and men; they are thinking as well as doing; some are homesick; others are tempted—all intend to do their duty to the end.

Who are going to follow them up, cheer and advise them?

The Nation provides barracks, ships, equipment and guns; under military discipline the

men develop. The Y. M. C. A. provides huts and a good social and moral atmosphere; the secretaries are friendly and often help men spiritually.

When, however, our boys and men are at home they do not turn to Y. M. C. A. secretaries for spiritual leadership, nor are they and we in the habit of worshipping at Y. M. C. A. meetings.

We have the Church with its Ministry and Sacraments.

To many thousands of our soldiers and sailors the services of the Church are endeared by long association.

Now when they are sensitive to every influence they need as never before the friendship and spiritual leadership of their own Clergy; they

need the assurance that their own Church is with them, ready to help.

The final strength of a man is his will

The will can be purified and fortified against the supreme test only by Jesus Christ and His Spirit.

The Church must therefore follow her sons into camp and ship and on to the battlefield, to give each his utmost strength, to speak to those who die for the Nation the last word of pardon and peace.

How can the Church follow her boys and men?

The Nation commissions ministers and priests of the various churches as chaplains in the Army and Navy; and most people think that there are enough chaplains for spiritual leadership.

Here are some facts as to the Army

Last July forty thousand young men were in the thirteen Officers' Training Camps, preparing to officer and thus give the tone to the new Army. And yet there was not a chaplain appointed for that body of forty thousand men. Today in great cantonments of from twenty-five to fifty thousand men there are only from two to six chaplains.

This is no one's fault; a great war has come upon us and we are unprepared. New laws and methods of administration must come.

Meanwhile what about our boys and men?

Clearly the Church must *get to work.* Last August the Presiding Bishop, realizing the situation, created a War Commission of clergy and laymen to act for the Church in these and other war relations. He appointed Bishop

Lawrence of Massachusetts its Chairman. Bishop Perry of Rhode Island is the Executive Officer. Through the generosity of a layman the Commission has an ample office in the Bankers' Trust Company Building, 14 Wall Street, New York.

What practical work is the Commission doing?

Although there was no commissioned chaplain appointed for those forty thousand young men last summer, yet the Church had in or near every camp by the permission of the commandant a strong and sympathetic clergyman whose duty it was to become the friend of the Church boys and men; help them and minister to them.

In most of the camps there was a celebration of the Holy Communion in a Y. M. C. A. hut every Sunday morning.

Today the Commission is placing, with the permission of the commandants, volunteer chaplains in all the great camps.

For instance, at Camp Upton, Long Island, Reverend Dr. Manning, Rector of Trinity Church, New York, has accepted an appointment by the Commission to serve for three months. At Camp Devens, in Ayer, Massachusetts, two vigorous young clergymen are working under the guidance of Dr. Peabody of Groton School. At Wrightstown, New Jersey, Reverend Karl Block is Voluntary Chaplain in charge of a Church House and Chapel at the entrance of Camp Dix. At Camp Custer, Michigan, Reverend William Heilman, appointed by the Commission in September, has opened a large Church Club House in the town frequented by soldiers who assemble in the Y. M. C. A. hut for church services on Sunday.

In all of the cantonments Holy Communion is celebrated by Church clergymen every Sunday morning, in some cases, as at Ayer, in three Y. M. C. A. huts at the same hour.

Later bulletins in the coming weeks will tell what is being done in other camps.

There are scores of smaller camps scattered throughout the country with several thousand or several hundred men and boys in each. Every parent in the Church will be glad to know if their boy can turn to a strong spiritual leader of their own Church for advice or cheer.

Laymen can often do what clergymen cannot.

Hence the War Commission is placing through the St. Andrew's Brotherhood picked men of maturity and force, who as secretaries of the Y. M. C. A. will have special thought for the

boys and men of our Church, not to draw them apart from others, *but to prompt them to do their part in the moral and religious influences of the camp.*

The Nation provides the surgeons with surgical instruments; the paymasters desks and ledgers, but provides no equipment for the chaplains. We are surely unwilling to have a chaplain beg for his altar and service books. In France where a regiment is billetted in villages along the railroad for several miles, the chaplain cannot reach his men without a motorcycle or a Ford.

The Church is unwilling to leave her chaplains unequipped.

Thousands of our boys are going to France—camps, trenches and perhaps hospitals await them.

The Nation, Red Cross and Y. M. C. A. will do everything in their power for them. There will be times, however, when none of these will make up for a strong minister of their own church.

Bishop McCormick has gone to Paris to represent the Church. He, the chaplains and his fellow workers will try to bring the personal touch from home to the boys.

The other day a message came from a Western Rector that a boy of his parish was wounded before Rheims, giving the boy's address. What could be done? From the War Commission a cable message went immediately to Bishop Israel, who at the time represented the Church in France, and the parents of the boy knew that within a few hours the Bishop would be by his side.

Thus the offices of the War Commission in New York and Paris will be a medium through which messages and deeds of helpfulness will pass from home to the boys and men at the front.

Concentration of forces, strong executive, quick action are notes of today to which the Church must respond. When Mr. Hoover calls upon the Church, as he has done, for service, he can now deal not with five thousand clergymen, but with one Commission.

When the various societies and guilds of the Church, anxious to do their bit without overlapping other workers, want definite advice, they may turn to the War Commission. When Church people who have already contributed to the Red Cross and the Y. M. C. A. discover that the Church is organized to follow up her own boys, they find a Commission representing

the whole Church through which the money will pour in right proportion to the various chaplains, organizations and camps.

Were the military map of the country arranged with reference to population or financial strength, each section might be left to care for the camps in its own borders.

The scheme of camps, however, throws the burden of responsibility on a very few States.

In the Carolinas and Georgia are seven cantonments, besides five naval and marine stations and two regular army posts. Texas has vast military cities growing up about San Antonio and three other mobilization camps.

Men and boys from the North are concentrating in the South.

Our War Commission must work with other religious agencies to distribute as evenly as pos-

sible all available resources of men and money so that the spiritual energies of the whole Church shall be felt at every point.

When a diocese prepares the budget of expense for local war work it will provide proportionately for camps a thousand or three thousand miles away.

This coming winter boys and men from the North will concentrate at the South—the Church must turn her forces that way.

On the last Sunday in January, the 27th, will come the War Call of the Church, a call for $500,000 with which to carry on the war work of the Church for a year.

DO NOT GIVE NOW

SAVE YOUR MONEY FOR THE GREAT

OFFERING

THE LAST OF JANUARY

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LOOK FOR BULLETINS

EVERY TWO WEEKS

FOR THE NEXT TWO MONTHS

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FACTS FROM CAMPS

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LETTERS OF CHAPLAINS

IN THIS COUNTRY AND IN FRANCE

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PLAN OF CAMPAIGN

Church Organizations Co-operating With the War Commission

Brotherhood of Saint Andrew

Appointment of lay secretaries and registration of Churchmen in camps.

General Board of Religious Education

Registration of Churchmen in service by dioceses and parishes.
Patriotic service in Church schools.

Social Service Commission

Food administration.
Camp communities and industrial standards.

Church Clubs

Local committees on equipment and finances.

Church Periodical Club

Collection and distribution of literature, etc., for chaplains' use.

Girls' Friendly Society

Protective work for girls in camp neighborhoods and munition factories.

Church Mission of Help

Corrective work for girls in camp neighborhoods.

Saint Barnabas' Guild

Work for nurses in national service.